

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim 31 has been amended.

Claim 37 has been canceled.

No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 21-30.

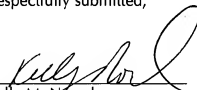
The Examiner has also indicated that claims 33, 34, 36, 37, and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; however, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, applicants have canceled claim 37 and included the limitations thereof into currently amended independent claim 1. Claim 36 has been amended to correct for dependency.

In view of the foregoing amendments, applicants submit that claims 31-36 and 38-40 are also now in a condition for allowance.

It is submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Carol M. Thomas

Date: November 29, 2005

Signature: 

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